



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: VT112

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Southeast Vermont including Windham, Windsor, eastern Bennington and eastern Rutland counties

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Town of Bellows Falls, Vermont, 05101

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : Approximately 50% of caseload is dairy cattle with other species combining to account for remaining 50%

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology

☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This Vermont region is experiencing the second most critical need for food animal veterinary services and is currently covered by veterinarians from neighboring states. Securing in-state services for this region would help protect livestock and human health and safety. It would also help ensure the continued security of the state's food supply and provide direct service to 6 commercial small ruminant dairies and 90 commercial bovine dairies containing an estimated 11,000 head of cattle. Given Vermont's small public practice veterinary staff, an adequate supply of private sector accredited veterinarians is essential, especially in this region that includes a border with New Hampshire and New York and where interstate movement of livestock occurs frequently. This veterinarian would help to serve as Vermont's eyes, ears, and boots on the ground regarding surveillance for foreign and domestic diseases, emergency preparedness and response, and ultimately, protection of the state's food supply in an agriculturally dense region of the state. Retention of this individual will help to counter the alarming attrition rate of food animal veterinarians in Vermont that has resulted in a projected need for 13 additional food animal veterinarians by 2014. It will help protect the continued economic viability of Vermont's dairy industry while ensuring that Vermonters have access to safe local food products.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

An applicant veterinarian filling this position could benefit two states by structuring a practice range to include southeast Vermont and southwest New Hampshire, although the need for livestock veterinary services in Vermont, alone, justifies a Type 2 position. Primary activities required of a veterinarian filling this position include dairy herd health consultations; these mostly consist of preventative health consults, disease detection/treatment, nutritional consults, and manual and ultrasound-based pregnancy determination. Monitoring of, and providing assistance to, producers regarding intrastate and interstate movement of all livestock species would also be included in the applicant veterinarian's scope of work, as well as all other duties normally performed by accredited food animal veterinarians. Vermont has a robust local-vore movement and recently expanded its allowance of bovine and small ruminant raw milk sales. As a result, the applicant veterinarian must have the ability to successfully advise clients on pre-harvest decisions that could impact food safety. In addition to dairy herd health activities, smaller organic and conventional livestock producers who serve a niche market are numerous in Vermont. Activities associated with serving this clientele would include treatment of individual sick animals on a routine and emergency basis, in addition to engaging in herd health related activities. During the first year, a successful applicant could expect to spend 30 – 50% of his or her time performing the aforementioned activities in this shortage area.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Past recruitment efforts include an unsuccessful 2009 attempt led by the State Veterinarian and the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, with stakeholder and state legislative input, to implement a loan repayment program for eligible Vermont livestock veterinarians. Recruitment activities are undertaken regularly by the veterinary faculty at the University of Vermont. Recruitment/retention efforts made by individual practice owners in this region have included offering competitive compensation and benefit packages to new graduate and experienced associate candidates willing to serve existing food animal clientele or expand food animal veterinary service in the same area. Future ability to attract/retain a food animal veterinarian for this region, without an incentive program, appears grim.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Vermont ships approximately 85% of its milk out of state. Producers who ship product in a regional or national market must remain compliant with standards developed by NCIMS, including those pertaining to antibiotic administration and extra-label use of other medications. If a food animal veterinarian is not secured for the dairy-dense southeast region of Vermont, the economic sustainability of agriculture in this sector will be compromised, as could the safety of the food supply available to consumers regionally and nationally. Vermont has 12 slaughter and 13 processing facilities, and the case-load for these facilities is provided by Vermont producers who depend on private veterinarians to ensure the health and productivity of their livestock and poultry species. Specifically, southeast Vermont contains commercial and hobby producers of all species of livestock, much of which ends up in the food supply. If sufficient veterinary services are not secured for this region of the state, then the health of livestock during the pre-harvest phase will be compromised as will the security of chicken, game bird, beef and pork food products. Inadequate numbers of food animal veterinarians in the region could also result in foreign and domestic livestock diseases remaining undetected there for unacceptable lengths of time and will continue to put additional burden on farmers to recognize the early signs of disease that could negatively impact animal and human health.

This dilemma presents a risk not only to Vermont's livestock industry but to those in states to which these animals are likely to be shipped.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Kristin M. Haas, DVM

Title: Vermont State Veterinarian; Director of Food
Safety and Consumer protection

Organization: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and
Markets
kristin.haas@state.vt.us

Email: (802)828-2426

Telephone Number: (Area code required)

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